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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: RONALD JOSEPHUS CLEMENS Docket No.: 01-306
WIJNSCHENK ET AL.

Serial No.: Examiner :

Filed : Art Unit :

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IFD : September 7, 2000

For : SEALING MAT FOR CLOSING REACTION TUBES

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the prior art listed hereinbelow, which was cited in the International Search Report, copies enclosed.

- (1) European Patent No. EP 0810030 A1 published December 3, 1997. This patent discloses a thermocycler apparatus suitable for performing the polymerase chain reaction comprising a metal sample block having an array of spaced-apart sample wells each of which has

an inside surface, said wells being provided with one or more capped sample tubes each containing a sample mixture placed in a microtiter plate having an uppermost edge, which plate is seated on said sample block, and a cover to enclose said capped sample tubes, which cover comprises a flat, horizontal rectangular portion and downwardly projecting skirt portions along the periphery thereof and further comprises a device for heating at least the underside of said horizontal portion, said cover being dimensioned to contact said sample block and to enclose said microtiter plate and capped sample tubes on said sample block when the tops of the caps on said sample tubes deform, due to the application of heat and a downwardly directed force on said cover.

- (2) European Patent No. EP 0 836 884 A2 published April 22, 1998. This patent is in German and there is no English equivalent.

- (3) European Patent No. EP 0 290 019 A2, entitled VIAL SEAL, By W. W. Jordan, published November 9, 1998. This patent discloses a vial seal which is provided for sealing a plurality of reagent-containing vials

seated in a reagent pack, the vial seal comprises a pliable cover having attached thereto a plurality of vial inserts for sealing a corresponding plurality of such vials. The pliable cover contains a corresponding plurality of openings which fit around the necks of the vials to allow the vial seal to remain with the vials at all times. The pliable cover contains a fastener which allows the vial seal to be held in a non-interfacing position with respect to the vial openings when the inserts are disengaged from the vials.

(4) U.S. Patent No. 6,074,614, entitled MULTI-ASSAY PLATE VOWER FOR ELIMINATION OF MENISCUS, By Hafeman et al., patented June 13, 2000. This patent discloses a constant pathlength multi-assay plate cover for multi-assay plates, comprising, a flat top side and a flat bottom side, the bottom side having solid cylindrical projections of equal length extending downwardly from the flat bottom side, wherein each cylindrical projection is centered about the optical axis passing through a corresponding sample well of a multi-assay plate, thereby eliminating the meniscus and evaporation effects.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

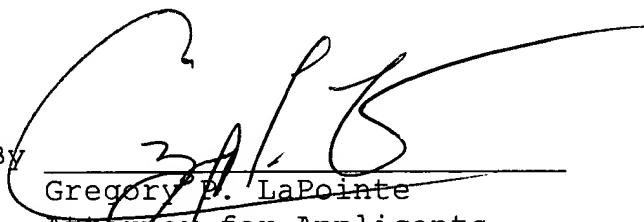
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on May 8, 2001
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